

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting
Monday, 8 December 2014

MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present at the meeting were Karen Williams (President), Lynton Bond, Carol Billett (Secretary), Bernie Bugden and Don Fraser.

Apologies were received from Linda Beveridge, John Bridge (Treasurer), Jim Arnold and Maryke Booth.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The number of committee members present was insufficient to form a quorum so the minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2014 could not be approved. This item will be carried forward to the next committee meeting.

3. Business Arising

- **Vegwatch** - Bernie had sent an email to the other Catchment Groups inviting their participation in Vegwatch. Linda currently has 15 groups participating in Vegwatch. It is an important project and it would be beneficial if the ACT Government could resource it in some way.
- **Membership Register** – as previously agreed, Carol, as Secretary, will maintain the Membership Register but we need to set up a system whereby Carol is informed of any changes to the membership so that the register is kept up to date. The Committee discussed possible solutions to the problem and it was unanimously agreed that when membership details are sent to Diane or Bernie, Bernie is to copy the information to Carol to update the register.
Action: Carol to liaise with Diane regarding the process.
- **Office Accommodation** – Bernie announced that Queanbeyan Council is terminating the lease on the office premises and we have until January 2015 to find new accommodation. Other premises have been inspected and considered but most were too big and the costs too high. The SELLS building was looked at but there was no storage space. The solicitor's premises at the end of Cassidy's Arcade will shortly be vacant and the office staff (Bernie, Mel, Deb) thinks these premises will be the best option in the short term. The current rent is \$600 per month and we have a budget of \$900 per month. Lynton suggested that if we closed down the storage space and used office space instead then we would have a budget of \$1100 per month for rent. As there were insufficient committee members present to form a quorum, the matter would have to be considered out of session. Lynton also suggested we put our name on the ACT Property Register.
Action: Bernie to email the Committee.

4. Correspondence

Reporting Period: 10/11/14 – 8/12/14

In:

Date	Source	Subject	From
10/11/14	Letter	Signed ACT Environment Grant – <i>Managing</i>	Tim Wong, Acting

		<i>Threats to Biodiversity Black mountain, mount Ainslie, Mount Majura</i>	Manager, NRM, Environment & Planning Directorate ACT
12/11/14	Letter	Notice of termination of lease for Units 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, Cassidy's Arcade	Queanbeyan City Council
12/11/14	Letter	ACTEW name change to Icon Water Ltd	Sam Sachse, GM Finance, Icon Water Ltd
20/11/14	Email	Signed audit report accounts	Jen Jesurajah, RSM Bird Cameron, ACT
28/11/14	Email to Biodiversity Working Group	Chief Minister's statement on Integrated Conservation Agency	Clare Henderson, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT
28/11/14	Email to Biodiversity Working Group	Nature Conservation Bill passing through the Legislative Assembly on 27/11/14	Clare Henderson, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT

Out:

Date	Source	Subject	To
11/11/14	Email	Outcomes of MCG Meeting of 10/11/14	Members of the interim ACT Peak Landcare Body Working Group

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report – Karen Williams

The full report was circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Karen had asked Lynton to give an update on the CLA and that report was also circulated prior to the meeting.

The Website Working Group has agreed to upgrade ACT Landcare website so front page is more informative, less busy. Currently talking about who are the contacts in Landcare and whether the catchment groups, RLF, etc. make clear what their purpose is. The RLF is required to carry out a survey of Landcare in the ACT. Preliminary questions were distributed to interested parties and the RLF has invited Catchment Coordinators and Jasmine Fox to be involved in developing further questions for the survey. The next CLA meeting is 18 December 2014.

Bernie suggested the RIS should value the existing skill set and build on it. In doing so it should also allow Greening Australia different targets for growing trees, instead of just a hectare target, so that it can be used for revegetation projects. It would help MCG with the Green Army and similar projects. There is a similar issue with weeds: the Captains Flat Broom Project is spread over three years but can only count once. They have considered having just one MERI plan so that everyone sends in their information and the MERI Officer aggregates and records the information.

Bush on the Boundary-Molonglo - Karen attended the meeting on 11 November. LDA is required to produce a report. It is now long overdue and still being edited. LDA promise to provide updates but then don't show up. Only three people attended the last meeting so Karen questioned the way forward and whether the group should continue. Lynton advised that it was the same with BoB-Gungahlin and

recommended she speak to Karissa as BoB-Gunghalin only meet when there is something to consider and that might be a better practice. Feedback from the meeting was that the Vegwatch program would be enhanced if it had a funded botanist with weed knowledge. Lynton advised that Rainer is about to retire and might be willing to assist on a retainer.

Vegwatch and Biodiversity Working Group – Linda provided an update. A copy of her report is attached to the minutes.

MCG Website – Lynton is maintaining the website, Marion is providing all support and makes sure it is working. She also does the training. This means that we rely on her for setting up new email addresses, mailing lists, passwords, etc. Marion has upgraded the new website but not yet produced the training documents so no one has been trained yet.

Attended Peak Landcare meeting. The Business Coordinator position is being advertised.

Went to Capital Landkeepers launch, met Peter Davey and talked about landscapes. He is keen to talk further.

Attended Green Army meeting with Bernie. Bernie advised that the three Catchment Groups have the Green Army team for one day per week. Not all the funding was spend in Round One so they are opening up Round 2. They are thinking more broadly and bringing in Thunderstone, etc. to get broader options for the Green Army teams, rather than just weeding. Karen added that she is meeting on Wednesday with Mel, Bernie, Tyronne, and maybe Wally, to talk about it.

Fundraising/Business Plan Meeting – the three catchment groups attended a workshop facilitated by Jen Quealy of TBL Creative Partnerships. The details are contained in the President's report. To follow on, Karen would like to have meetings with the Executive team, including the Treasurer and Secretary to work out the way ahead.

February Walk and Talk – this will be practice for a corporate exercise so it will be interesting to see who turns up and how it runs. Karen would like Tyronne to be involved to share information, agendas and strategies.

5.2 Vice President's Report

As this office is currently vacant there is no Vice President's report.

5.3 Treasurer's Report

The financial reports were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Lynton advised that we should have a cash management strategy. We currently have \$188K in cash reserves and we will probably not need to use \$100K of that for the next six months.

5.4 Staff Report – Bernie Bugden

The Staff Report was circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Molonglo Catchment Strategy – Mel is coordinating with Deb to get better quality data, monitoring, etc.

Funding – we have \$159K for current projects and have applied for another \$165K this year. The application process for ACT Government and NSW Government grants begins in March 2015. LLS now have their budgets and will be announcing community grants soon.

Waterwatch – Deb has done a lot of work on the chip process, which is very valuable for other work we are doing.

BoB-Googong – a meeting was held on 1 December. The agenda is set by Googong Township P/L and consultants, however, some community driven issues are reaching the table for discussion. The last meeting covered waterworks and a water management plan. An update on storm water management was requested. There are several synergies between MCG and Googong Township P/L, eg, feral pest program, etc, so we could work more closely.

RIS – meeting targets.

5.5 Committee Members

a. Burra Landcare – Don Fraser

The main concern is the management of trees planted in the park. The subcommittee monitors them every week and the trees are doing well. This is expected to continue for at least five years. Advice has been sought from a consultant gardener on fertiliser, etc.

b. Carwoola Landcare – Lynton Bond

A weeds field day was held on 23 November and 5.5 people turned up. The majority were new people and all enjoyed the day.

c. Friends of Black Mountain – Linda Beveridge

As Linda was unable to attend the meeting she had submitted her report via email, which was read out by Carol. A copy of that report is attached to the minutes.

d. Oaks Estate Progress Association – Karen Williams

Currently involved in ACT Government community resilience project and Southside Community Services have employed a project officer to work with Oaks Estate. Progress is slow but want to target fire mitigation and focus on the paddocks across the river, perhaps using appropriate grazing, etc. A meeting was held with Emergency Services on 16 November to initiate it.

e. Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold

As Jim was unable to attend the meeting he had submitted the following points via email.

The November work party was abridged due to the rain. Most of the work since the last meeting has been done by Jim to catch weeds before they seed: in the bushland – slender thistle (scything or pulling); in the paddocks – saffron thistle (scything or pulling), mustard (scything), St John's Wort (spot spraying or pulling). PCL has a contractor currently spot spraying St John's Wort in the surrounding ex-rural lease.

6. Other Business

6.1 Peak ACT Landcare Body Update

This item was covered in the President's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

6.2 Fundraising/Business Plan

This item was covered in the President's report at paragraph 5.1 above.

7. Next Meeting

The next Executive and General meeting is scheduled for 12 January 2015; however, as in previous years, the first meeting of the year will probably be an informal barbecue. Details will be advised prior to the date.

8. Meeting Close

As there was no other business to discuss, Karen declared the meeting closed at 7:05pm.



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President

9/2/2015-

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Date